



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5536

February Session, 2014



**AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2014*) (a) Except as provided in
2 subsection (e) of this section, for registration periods beginning on and
3 after October 1, 2014, each psychologist licensed in accordance with
4 chapter 383 of the general statutes shall complete a minimum of ten
5 hours of continuing education during each registration period. For
6 purposes of this section, "registration period" means the twelve-month
7 period for which a license has been renewed in accordance with the
8 provisions of section 19a-88 of the general statutes and is current and
9 valid.

10 (b) Qualifying continuing education activities shall be related to the
11 practice of psychology and shall include courses, seminars, workshops,
12 conferences and postdoctoral institutes offered or approved by: (1) The
13 American Psychological Association; (2) a regionally accredited
14 institution of higher education graduate program; (3) a state or
15 regional psychological association; (4) a postdoctoral training center;
16 (5) a nationally recognized provider of continuing education seminars;
17 or (6) a behavioral science organization that is professionally or
18 scientifically recognized. Not more than five continuing education
19 units shall be completed via the Internet, distance learning or home

20 study. Qualifying continuing education activities may include a
21 licensee's presentation of an original paper, essay or research-based
22 poster relating to the practice of psychology or a formal lecture in
23 psychology at a professional conference or participation in a panel
24 presentation before a group of psychology professionals, provided not
25 more than five continuing education units shall be completed by such
26 activities. A licensee who has earned a diplomate from the American
27 Board of Professional Psychology or American Board of Psychological
28 Hypnosis during the registration period may substitute credits toward
29 the diplomate for continuing education requirements for such period.
30 For purposes of this section "continuing education unit" means fifty to
31 sixty minutes of participation in accredited continuing professional
32 education.

33 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from a
34 provider of continuing education for all continuing education activities
35 that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate for not
36 less than three years after the license renewal date for which the
37 continuing education activity was completed. Upon the request of the
38 Commissioner of Public Health a licensee shall submit such certificate
39 to the Department of Public Health. A licensee who fails to comply
40 with the continuing education requirements prescribed in this section
41 may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-192 of the
42 general statutes.

43 (d) A licensee who holds a professional educator certificate that is
44 endorsed for school psychologist or counseling psychologist issued by
45 the State Board of Education pursuant to chapter 166 of the general
46 statutes may substitute professional development activities described
47 in section 10-148a of the general statutes for continuing education
48 activities required in accordance with this section.

49 (e) A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time shall be
50 exempt from the continuing education requirements under subsection
51 (a) of this section. In individual cases involving medical disability or
52 illness, the Commissioner of Public Health may grant a waiver of the

53 continuing education requirements or an extension of time within
54 which to fulfill the continuing education requirements of this section to
55 any licensee, provided the licensee submits to the department an
56 application for waiver or extension of time on a form prescribed by the
57 commissioner, along with a certification by a licensed physician of the
58 disability or illness and such other documentation as may be required
59 by the commissioner. The commissioner may grant a waiver or
60 extension for a period not to exceed one registration period, except the
61 commissioner may grant additional waivers or extensions if the
62 medical disability or illness upon which a waiver or extension is
63 granted continues beyond the period of the waiver or extension and
64 the licensee applies for an additional waiver or extension. The
65 commissioner may grant a waiver of the continuing education
66 requirements to a licensee who is not engaged in active professional
67 practice, in any form, during a registration period, provided the
68 licensee submits a notarized application on a form prescribed by the
69 commissioner prior to the end of the registration period. A licensee
70 who is granted a waiver under the provisions of this subsection may
71 not engage in professional practice until the licensee has met the
72 continuing education requirements of this section.

73 (f) Any licensee granted a waiver of the continuing education
74 requirements pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this
75 section shall be required to complete five hours of continuing
76 education not later than six months after the date on which such
77 licensee returns to active practice. In addition, such licensee shall
78 comply with the certificate of completion requirements prescribed in
79 subsection (c) of this section.

80 (g) Any licensee whose license has become void and who applies to
81 the department for reinstatement of such license pursuant to section
82 19a-88 of the general statutes, shall submit with such application
83 evidence documenting that such applicant has successfully completed
84 five hours of continuing education within the one-year period
85 immediately preceding the date of application for reinstatement.

86 (h) The commissioner may accept continuing education activities
87 completed by a licensee in another state or country to meet the
88 requirements of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2014	New section
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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In sections (1)(a) and 1(g), "19a-88b" was changed to "19a-88", for accuracy.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*